IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

validating configuration information specified by a user ~~prior to;~~

storing the configuration information in a database;

extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites; and

generating a text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a relational database.

4. Canceled.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically generating additional text-based configuration files according to a schedule.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes configuration information for [[a]] the plurality of business sites across a plurality of networks.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information is used by at least one messaging application to transmit a message to a destination.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact method.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a method type.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact group.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a contact group member

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a schedule.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a strategy.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a pager type.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the extracting is performed over a secure communication pathway.

21. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising:
validating configuration information specified by a user ~~prior to~~;
storing the configuration information in a database;
extracting at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites; and

generating at least one text-based configuration file containing the extracted configuration information.

22. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

23. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database is a relational database.

24. Canceled.

25. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises configuring a messaging application using the configuration file.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the generating of the text-based configuration file is performed periodically according to a schedule.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the database includes configuration information for [[a]] the plurality of business sites across a plurality of networks.

28. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information is used by at least one messaging application to transmit a message to a destination.

29. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

30. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises: creating at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

31. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:
compiling the configuration file into a compiled file at a later time.

32. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:
updating the configuration information stored in the database through a portal.

33. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the receiving is performed over a secure communication pathway.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a database, the database to store configuration information specified by a user; and
a configuration generator, the configuration generator to validate the configuration information ~~specified by a user prior to saving the configuration information~~ to be saved in the database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information over a communication pathway from the

database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
a portal, the portal to provide access to a user to update the configuration information.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, method types, contact groups, contact group members, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the database is a relational database.

39. Canceled.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the scheduling tool is at least one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the configuration generator is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communication pathway.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage device, the storage device to store configuration information specified by a user; and

a processor coupled with the storage device over a communications pathway, the processor to validate the configuration information ~~prior to saving the configuration information~~ to be saved in a database, to extract at least a subset of the configuration information from the database based on an extraction parameter identifying one of a plurality of business sites, and to generate at least one text-based configuration file including the extracted configuration information.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes configuration keyword information recognizable by a messaging application.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the configuration information includes a set of one or more contacts, contact methods, contact groups, schedules, strategies, and pager type.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the storage device is a relational database.

49. Canceled.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:
a compiler to generate a binary configuration file after generation of the configuration file.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the generation of the binary configuration file is executed from a scheduling tool.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the scheduling tool is one from a group consisting of a windows scheduler or a unix cron.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the processor is further to generate at least one include file for a plurality of sections within the configuration file.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the communication pathway is a secure communications pathway.

55-56. (Not Entered)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the configuration information extracted from the database is specific to one of the plurality of business sites.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein validating configuration information comprises:
performing at least one of a referential check, a value validation check and a typographical error check.